

## **CHILD CARE LICENSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

13 May 2010

Cannon Health Building  
228 North 1460 West Room 125  
Salt Lake City, Utah

---

**Members Present:** Dale Smith, David Rothschild, Carol Thompson, Pat Marino, Diane Wilkinson, and Julie Shakib

**Members Excused:** Michael Libeck, Ed Dieringer, Joni Hemond, Carolyn Miller and Heidi Radeke and Leslie Hjorth

**Members Absent:** Jodi Jensen

**Department of Health and Child Care Licensing Staff Present:** Dr. Marc Babitz, Teresa Whiting, Simon Bolivar, Joyce Hastings, Karrie Phillips, Joan Isom, and Sherri Lizotte

---

### **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Dale Smith reviewed the new process agreed upon at our last meeting for the review and approval of Advisory Committee minutes. The minutes will be emailed to the committee members following the meeting. The members will review the minutes for any corrections and email those corrections to Sherri. The members will then receive the final minutes via e-mail for approval. The minutes will then be available to the public on the Child Care Licensing website within two weeks after the committee meeting.

Ms. Whiting introduced Russell Frandsen, who is the Legislative Fiscal Analyst for the Utah Department of Health. Mr. Frandsen works on the Department of Health budget for the Legislature. Mr. Frandsen is visiting the Department's programs to learn more about them. After the advisory meeting, Mr. Frandsen will be going out with Licensors to observe a center inspection and a home inspection.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Update on Mixed Age Group Rules From Other States**

Ms. Whiting reported on the research she had done for mixed age groups rules from other states as requested by the committee from March 11, 2010. Ms. Whiting stated that in 21 states the ratio and group size for the youngest child in the group must be maintained for mixed-age groups. Ms. Whiting brought in a document with a sampling of different ways some states handle mixed-age groups. Ms. Whiting asked the committee what they would

like to recommend to Child Care Licensing.

Mr. Marino stated that he thought New Hampshire's rule would be easy to maintain for multiple age groups; that centers must base the staff-child ratio on the average age of the children in the group when there are mixed ages in the same group. Mr. Marino stated that he also likes the idea that for two age groups, such as for a two and three year old group, the ratios be simply stated when the younger children do not comprise more than half of the group.

Mr. Smith explained that this is more of an issue in the early morning/opening and evening/closing times.

Mr. Anderson, from UPCCA, stated that North Dakota's ratios may seem the most complicated, but that they really are not. He added that the formula that North Dakota uses is probably the most reasonable one and would seem to offer the most flexibility to programs for the beginning and ending of the day for the number of teachers needed in a classroom.

Ms. Whiting will take the input and prepare some charts and scenarios and bring those back to the next advisory meeting on July 8, 2010.

#### **Update on Outdoor Playground Rules from Other States**

Ms. Whiting reported that she did not find any other state that directly addressed the issue of the slope of the outdoor play area. Some states have a rule requiring different play surfaces in the outdoor area, including a surface that can be used for wheeled toys. Other states said they would address this through their rules requiring a "safe" outdoor play area, and they would not consider a playground without a flat surface safe for children playing outdoors in winter when there is snow.

Mr. Rothschild will bring draft language to address the safety of outdoor play areas with excessive sloped surfaces to the next committee meeting on July 8, 2010.

#### **Update on QRIS - Office of Child Care (OCC)**

Ms. Rasmussen, from OCC, reported that the Office of Child Care is currently working on a draft for Infant and Toddler Guidelines to assist parents in understanding the developmental needs of infants and toddlers.

Ms. Rasmussen reported on the first meeting for the QRIS project. According to the federal Child Care Bureau, QRIS stands for Quality Rating Improvement System. Such systems are used to evaluate or rank centers much like restaurants or hotels using a star rating system. QRISs are intended to be a tool for parents to make an informed decision for selecting child care for their children. During the first meeting, the determination was made that in Utah

QRIS would stand for Quality Recognition Information System. QRIS would start at the Child Care Resource and Referral's website for parents looking for daycare at licensed daycare providers. The Office of Child Care will be creating and enhancing the information based on the committee's recommendations for the QRIS aspect of the website. This enhanced website will allow parents to make an informed decision for child care and will allow facilities to market themselves by allowing them to post information.

This enhanced Resource and Referral website is in development and OCC should have some screen shots for review at the next committee meeting on July 8, 2010. Ms. Rasmussen stated that the QRIS committee will continue to meet during the year to make the determination of what the quality indicators will be. OCC will be creating a communication plan so that any summary documents and minutes will be available to the public as the process and plans for QRIS unfolds. Ms. Rasmussen reported that OCC has some one time funding for a public awareness project that will be used to help build a professional public awareness strategy to let parents know about QRIS.

Ms. Rasmussen also reported that the denial rate for the criminal background screenings for relative only care has been very validating. If a person who is eligible to receive child care subsidy chooses a relative to be their child care provider, that person and any household members must pass a criminal background screening. The denial rate for these background screenings is between 14% to 25% for each month.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Input From One Year Review of New Home Provider Rules**

Ms. Whiting presented input gathered for the one year review for the home provider rules to the Child Care Licensing Committee. Ms. Whiting provided a document with suggested changes, which were then discussed.

Mr. Marino inquired about the determination for the safety of the netting around trampolines. Ms. Whiting stated that there is some documentation from CPSC indicating that netting can reduce injuries from falls.

Mr. Smith inquired about packed dirt and grass and the determination for packed dirt being a hard surface. Ms. Whiting clarified that currently Licensors determine packed dirt or sand by the fact that it will not move easily when stepped on and that when measuring depth with the shovel, the shovel does not go into the dirt or sand easily.

Regarding the rules for smoking and the Utah Indoor Clean Air Act, Dr. Shakib wanted the committee and public to be aware that cigarette smoke does linger on the clothing of a smoker, and that there are children with asthma and allergies that are susceptible to having an asthma or allergy attack triggered by the smoke that lingers on clothing. Ms. Whiting

stated that licensing rules must be consistent with the Utah Indoor Clean Air Act which does not address the issue of residual smoke on clothing. Therefore licensing rules cannot include such language.

After the discussion of the suggested changes, Ms. Whiting stated that Child Care Licensing will get a filing ready for the changes to go out for the public comment period.

#### **Input on Possible Revisions to 100 Center Rules (for school age classrooms) to Match New 70 Out of School Time Rules**

Ms. Whiting presented and the committee discussed the possible revision to the 100 Center Rules to match the new Out of School Time Rules for school age classrooms.

Mr. Anderson, from UPCCA, made the suggestion that if a school age child signs him or herself out of the program, a copy of an accident report could be sent in a variety of ways, including mailing a copy, calling the parent, and emailing the parent.

Following the discussion Ms. Whiting stated that these rules will not be filed yet. Rather, they will be brought back to the next meeting on July 8, 2010 for further discussion of the center mixed age groups and outdoor playground areas with excessive slopes.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

The next Child Care Licensing Advisory Committee meeting will be on July 8, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Cannon Health Building.

The meeting ended at 11:37 a.m.